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25 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Gordon NOVEL

1. On 23 May Mr. Papich left with us a copy of attached FBI teletype. FBI will confirm this information by formal memorandum.

2. Mr. Papich requested information on two points with permission to make our reply available to the Attorney General:

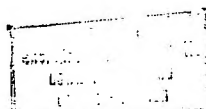
- a) nature and extent of CIA interest in the Double-chek Corporation.
- b) our comments and observations on the draft letter purportedly prepared by Gordon NOVEL.

⁰³ 3. After consultation with Mr. Jacob Esterline, DC/WH, Mr. James Powell, SOD, and Mr. Lawrence Houston, OGC, the following reply was given Mr. Papich:

"Double-chek is a "shell" corporation used in the past by CIA to recruit pilots. It was also used as a front for the payment of the "Birmingham widows". No individual bearing the name of Gordon NOVEL had any connection with Double-chek nor with CIA.

Mr. Lawrence Houston is in constant touch with the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Nathaniel Cossack, on this matter, and will tell him about present developments.

Mr. Houston comments that anyone could have prepared the letter but it really does sound like NOVEL's cock-eyed approach rather than Garrison. There is a fair chance that

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NOVEL might have written it. This will probably make another headline for Garrison but we don't feel it could do the Agency much damage".

4. On the question of the alleged gunshot fired at NOVEL, Mr. Papich advised that the FBI is not investigating the matter. It has not been confirmed as yet that anyone did shoot at NOVEL.

J. Roman
DDP/CI/Liaison

cc: OGC - Mr. Houston-w/attachment
DC/WH - Mr. Esterline-(has seen)
SOD 03- (Mr. Powell)-attachment previously furnished
CI/R&A- Mr. Rocca-w/attachment
CI/LSN- FBI log-w/attachment

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